

THE
SHEPHERD'S
COTE

A NON-DENOMINATIONAL WEEKLY
DEVOTION, WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL
RESOURCE FOR CHURCHES MINISTERING
TO THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED.
THIS IS A FREE SERVICE OF THE
COVENANT CHAPEL AT THE J. IVERSON
RIDDLE DEVELOPMENTAL
CENTER, 300 ENOLA ROAD, MORGANTON, NC
28655.

ORDER OF SERVICE

COVENANT CENTER CHAPEL SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF *December 16, 2007*

(The congregation is asked to participate in all underlined responses and all hymns.)

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

“Think about things that are true, honest, just, and lovely.”

Philippeans 4:8

SILENT PRAYER

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Chaplain: Did you come to worship God?

Congregation: Yes, we did!

Chaplain: Did you come to sing unto the Lord?

Congregation: Yes, we did!

Chaplain: Did you come to pray?

Congregation: Yes, we did!

Chaplain: Let us begin our service in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen!

HYMN: “Joy to the World”

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,

And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

READING OF THE PSALMS

Luke 1:47-55

**“My heart praises the Lord!
He remembers His servant, and it makes me happy.
He feeds the hungry and keeps His promises.”**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Dear God,

We are thank You for showing us Your love. Help us also to show our love for others in the way we treat them.

In Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

HYMN: “Silent Night”

Silent night, Holy Night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

LITANY OF THANKS AND PRAISE

For the beauty of the earth -
Thank you, God
For the glory of the skies -
Thank you, God
For the love which all around us lies -
Thank you, God
For the wonder of each hour, the day, the night -
Thank you, God
For hills, trees, flowers -
Thank you, God
For sun, moon and stars of light -
Thank you, God
For the joy of human love -
Thank you, God
For friends on earth and friends above
Thank you, God

HYMN: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The ever lasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

SCRIPTURE READING

John1: 7

"A man named John came to tell people about a special light so tht everyone could hear about that light and believe."

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

MESSAGE

"Helping the Needy"

(During the Advent Season there are many lights that might be used as object lessons for this sermon --- the light that represents the star above the Bethlehem manger in most churches' nativity scenes, the Chrismon tree lights that adorn many church sanctuaries, a string of decorative lights, etc. I plan to use the Chrismon tree. My only caution is that you select one that is large enough for all to see.)

I know that you could not help but notice all the decorations around the campus for the last couple of weeks. There are cut-outs of all sorts of characters, there is music being played, there is even a train that you can see. But the thing that most stands out to all of us are the lights.

There are lights of every color and (my favorite) little white lights as well. But they are everywhere. Our Chapel sanctuary also has some lights, and I am going to turn them on right now (plug them in).

Our scripture for today tells about a special light. That was a way of referring to Jesus. Jesus was that light. Sometimes we say that Jesus is the Light of the World.

Now, the verse reads, "John came to tell people about a special light." But we could just as easily make it read, "John came to tell people about Jesus."

Just like we use a flashlight to find our way in the darkness, Jesus is a light to show us the way in this world. He shows us how to be kind and loving.

End with a prayer: "Loving God, You are the Light of the World. You are our light. Show us each day how You want us to live."

HYMN: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

(Everyone greet one another)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

God of Joy,

We celebrate Your love for us today. You loved us so much that You gave Your Son to be our Savior. Thank You for the joy that is in our hearts. And help us to share this joy with others.

We pray this prayer in the name of Jesus Who taught us this prayer that we pray together saying :

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Spoken by everyone)

Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom,
The power, and glory, for ever and ever. AMEN.

HYMN: Jesus Loves Me

Jesus Loves me this I know
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong
They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

THE BENEDICTION:

O God, bless us and keep us safe and help us to be a blessing to others. Amen.

Congregation: Amen

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye Heavenly Host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

CHAPLAIN: Go in peace; Serve the Lord

CONGREGATION: Thanks be to God

MUSICAL POSTLUDE